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SOME RECENT PSYCHOANALYTIC LITERATURE

By G. STANLEY HALL

A Young Girl's Diary. ANON. Pref. by SIGMUND FREUD. N. Y., Seltzer, 1921. Pp. 284.

This diary was begun by a Viennese girl of eleven, and continued until she was fifteen and a half. She belonged to the well-to-do and intelligent bourgeoisie, and was evidently a girl of a somewhat precocious type, not unusual in our day. The most remarkable thing about these very secret and confessional records of incidents and spontaneous feelings is that so large a part of all the child's interests, gossip, and activity was to find out more and more about the sources of human life. Every item of this knowledge which filtered in was pooled with that of her most intimate chums, reasoned about, and made the center of all kinds of emotional activity, so that the volume might almost have been entitled *A Girl's Four-Year-Old Struggle to Understand Sex and Reproduction*. It all illustrates in a rather too exquisite way Freudian theories of the immense travail of soul involved in the *Aufklärung* and we have hints in it of about all the aberrations of the *libido* which are described in his writings. Freud says that nothing has ever been written "enabling us to see so clearly into the soul of a young girl during the years of pubertal development." "The little author is a literary artist." In the diary, he adds, we see how interest in sex-life first arises vaguely and "then takes entire possession of the growing intelligence, so that the child suffers under the load of secret knowledge but gradually becomes enabled to shoulder the burden."

Scores of entirely innocent and neutral words (secret, figure, understanding, illness, disease, relation, period, part, and many more) suddenly become centers of intense self-consciousness and curiosity, common knowledge of these being the basis of friendship and its impartation being friendship's chief function. From a sense at first of being shut out from all that made life really interesting, this child, by incessant prying and searching, slowly came to feel that she had a very superior knowledge and even had a mission to initiate others. An adult will be amazed to find how many partial faults and misleading concepts are possible in this field. If this is the most important of all kinds of knowledge, this girl was a genius and a superb psychologist without knowing it. She penetrated to, and gave away more completely than anyone else, the secret of her sex during the period of its most rapid development.

The questions that will inevitably arise in every reader's mind are: first, whether the child was normal; and secondly, whether her surroundings in Vienna did not bring her to very unusual envisagement of all sorts of improper things. In any case, the book is a remarkable contribution to "flapper" psychology, of which we know so very little, and takes its place beside the revelations of Marie Bashkirtseff, Mary MacLane, and Una Mary. It should be added that, if the book were radically expurgated, there would be enough left to make very interesting and stimulating reading for girls of like age and their parents, although it would be greatly reduced in size. But as it stands, it would be a grave mistake to allow

it to fall into their hands. While cultivated parents of neurotic girls of this age might be helped by it, its circulation should be chiefly among the medical profession. The expurgation of a dozen or a score of pages would greatly help.

The Psychology of Daydreams. By J. VARENDONCK. Introd. by SIGMUND FREUD. Lond., Allen and Unwin, 1921. Pp. 367.

Dr. Varendonck, a brilliant young Belgian student best known by his study of children's societies, was for three years during the war an interpreter for the Allies and writes his book in English. He had read little but Freud's "Dream Analysis" before he entered the war, but after some years succeeded in getting hold of the mode of thought-activity which has been called autistic or fore-conscious or, by Jung, undirected thinking, which is best studied just before going to sleep. The moment he becomes aware of these dreamy states he concentrates upon the last link of the chain, and by dint of long practice has been able to drag up previous links, so that he gives us, based very largely upon his own personal experience and self-study, by far the best picture of reverie, which shows inner mental life in its estrangement from the outer world. Hysteria is the invasion of the system of motility by unconscious reveries. The paranoid gives these reveries reality. The productions of reverie are much more accessible because the inner self does not drift so far from its outer conditions. In the early part of the book the author has, to his mortification, to give us many personal details that we may understand his reveries, but later these are supplemented by the reveries of others and the personal element fades. These studies convince him that voluntary thinking is a recent adult acquisition, and that in reverie we are thinking as the child or as primitive man thought. In conscious thought we are able to eliminate affective processes, but these dominate in the fore-conscious. The latter, again, has a very highly developed symbolic character and can never be abstract. It is also egocentric and is rarely entirely impersonal. Like dreams, reveries often center about unsolved problems and cares, and their end-exteriorization is of a more immediate and topical character. They are almost always adaptive and in a sense teleological. And yet reverie and play, as interpreted by Groos, have much in common. The censor is less active than in directed thinking, but more so than in dreams. Conscious activities are all assisted, or should be, by affective thinking. Conscious thought, however, is characterized by far greater freedom from the defects engendered by emotions, and should perhaps be characterized as the elimination of all affectivity. It is under the dominion of volition only. It alone can be truly speculative. The author's conclusion is that unconscious, fore-conscious, and conscious thinking are three manifestations of the same process varying only in degree of function which, originally regulating the relations of the individual with the outer world, constitutes a manifestation of universal energy and is as eternal and unceasing as the other organic activities in the service of adaptation.

The New Psychology and Its Relations to Life. By A. G. TANSLEY. Lond., Allen and Unwin, 1920. Pp. 283.

This book claims to be the only one in English which has attempted to gather all the light shed by psychoanalysis upon the behavior and treatment of normal individuals. All the factors characteristic of the mentation and behavior of the neurotic are at work in the normal individual, whom the analyzer does not see and whom he too rarely considers. This gap the author seeks to fill by giving what he calls a biological view of the